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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/659,490	09/11/2000	Klaus Brebol	459-482P	4883

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EXAMINER

CUEVAS, PEDRO J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2834

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/659,490

Applicant(s)

BREBOL, KLAUS

Examiner

Pedro J. Cuevas

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 12-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 20 August 2001 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3,8.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action replaces the previous Non-Final Office Action mailed on November 7, 2001. The new Office Action restarts the Time Period for Applicants Response in addition to the Prior Art Rejections of the previous action.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9 and 12-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-9 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,861,704 to Kitami et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,562,563 to Schafft.

Kitami et al. clearly teaches the construction of a piezoelectric transformer with a primary portion (13) and a secondary portion (12) as shown in Figure 2, capable of generating and transforming piezoelectric vibrations in accordance with an AC Voltage fed to one portion. These piezoelectric portions are annular in shape, polarized perpendicular to the peripheral direction, adapted to operate at a resonance frequency of a dimension of a cross-section (R) of the annular body perpendicular to the peripheral direction and where the secondary portion is provided with a plurality of inner electrodes (6).

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However, it fails to disclose an annular, i.e., ring shaped, body.

Schafft clearly teaches the construction of a piezoelectric transformer with a primary annular portion (11a) and a secondary annular portion (11b), capable of generating and transforming piezoelectric vibrations in accordance with an AC Voltage fed to one portion for the purpose of providing an improved high voltage transformation device and to increase the power handling capability of a ceramic ring transformer.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the ring shape transformer disclosed by Schafft on the piezoelectric transformer disclosed by Kitami et al. for the purpose of providing an improved high voltage transformation device and to increase the power handling capability of a ceramic ring transformer.

5. With regards to claim 2, Schafft discloses a piezoelectric transformer where the annular body is an annular body as shown in Figures 1-3 and 5.

6. With regards to claim 3, Kitami et al. discloses a piezoelectric transformer where the resonance frequency of a dimension of a cross-section of the annular body perpendicular to the peripheral direction of the annular body is a resonance frequency of the thickness of the annular body.

7. With regards to claim 4, Kitami et al. discloses a piezoelectric transformer where the primary and the secondary portions of the piezoelectric body have been polarized in the thickness direction of the piezoelectric body.

8. With regards to claim 5, Kitami et al. discloses a piezoelectric transformer where the primary portion of the piezoelectric body has been radially polarized.

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9. With regards to claim 7, Schafft discloses a piezoelectric transformer where the piezoelectric body is annular with a through-going opening as shown in Figures 1 and 3.
10. With regards to claim 8, Schafft discloses a piezoelectric transformer where the opening is a through-going opening in the thickness direction of the body as shown in Figure 1.
11. With regards to claim 9, Schafft discloses a piezoelectric transformer where the annular piezoelectric body (11) is shaped as a hollow circular cylinder with a circular cylindrical opening having the same center as the cylindrical body as shown in Figure 3.
12. With regards to claim 22, Kitami et al. discloses a piezoelectric transformer, which contains a separate galvanic separation layer (37) between the primary and the secondary portions as shown in Figure 11.
13. With regards to claim 23, Kitami et al. discloses a piezoelectric transformer, where the electrodes of one or both portions of the piezoelectric body are embedded in their respective portion, and where the piezoelectric material (37) between the portions and the embedded electrodes, is used as a galvanic separation while still actively participating in the power transfer as shown in Figure 11.
14. With regards to claim 24, Kitami et al. discloses a piezoelectric transformer with:
 - a piezoelectric body (Fig. 11)
 - a primary portion (1) and a secondary portion, both being able to generate and transform piezoelectric vibrations
 - electrodes (6) on one or both portions of the piezoelectric body, embedded in their respective portion

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a piezoelectric material (37) between the primary and the secondary portion to be used as a galvanic separator while still actively participating in the power transfer of the device, as shown in Figure 11.

15. Claims 12-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,861,704 to Kitami et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,562,563 to Schafft as applied to claims 1-9 and 22-24 above, further in view of common knowledge in the art.

Kitami et al. in view of Schafft, discloses the claimed invention except for:

a piezoelectric transformer where the ratio b/h between width b of the wall of the annular body and the height h of the wall of the annular body (the thickness of the annular body) is at the most 0.25 for the purpose of maximizing the efficient coupling of the piezoelectric transformers,

a piezoelectric transformer, where the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening is at least 0.5,

a piezoelectric transformer where the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening is at least 1,

a piezoelectric transformer, where the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening is at least 1.5,

a piezoelectric transformer, where the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening is at least 2,

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a piezoelectric transformer, where the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening is at least 3, and

a piezoelectric transformer, where the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening is at least 5.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to:

select the ratio b/h between width b of the wall of the annular body and the height h of the wall of the annular body (the thickness of the annular body) of a piezoelectric transformer to be at the most 0.25 for the purpose of maximizing the efficient coupling of the piezoelectric transformers,

select the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening to be at least 0.5,

select the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening to be at least 1,

select the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening to be at least 1.5,

select the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening to be at least 2,

select the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening to be at least 3, and

select the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening to be at least 5;

since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

16. With regards to claim 13, Kitami et al. in view of Schafft, discloses the claimed invention except for:

a piezoelectric transformer, where the ratio b/h is between 0.35 and 0.8,
a piezoelectric transformer, where the ratio b/h is between 0.4 and 0.7, and
a piezoelectric transformer, where the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening is in the interval of 1-5.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to:

select the ratio b/h is between 0.35 and 0.8,
select the ratio b/h to be between 0.4 and 0.7, and
select the ratio o/b between the transverse dimension o of the opening of the annular body and the width b of the wall part of the body surrounding the opening to be in the interval of 1-5;
since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Aller*, 105 USPQ 233.

Allowable Subject Matter

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17. Claims 10 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion


18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: See PTO-892, which was send with the replaced Office Action.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro J. Cuevas whose telephone number is (703) 308-4904. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:30 - 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Néstor R. Ramírez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-1341 for regular communications and (703) 305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Pedro J. Cuevas
January 11, 2002



EXAMINER
P. J. CUEVAS
JAN 11 2002